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Mayor's Office of Adult Education
Tara Colton
Executive Director

NYC Service
Diahann Billings-Burford
Chief Service Officer

NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Protect your Money

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Protect your Money

DØ YOU HEAR
WHAT WE HEAR?
MUSIC {page 17}

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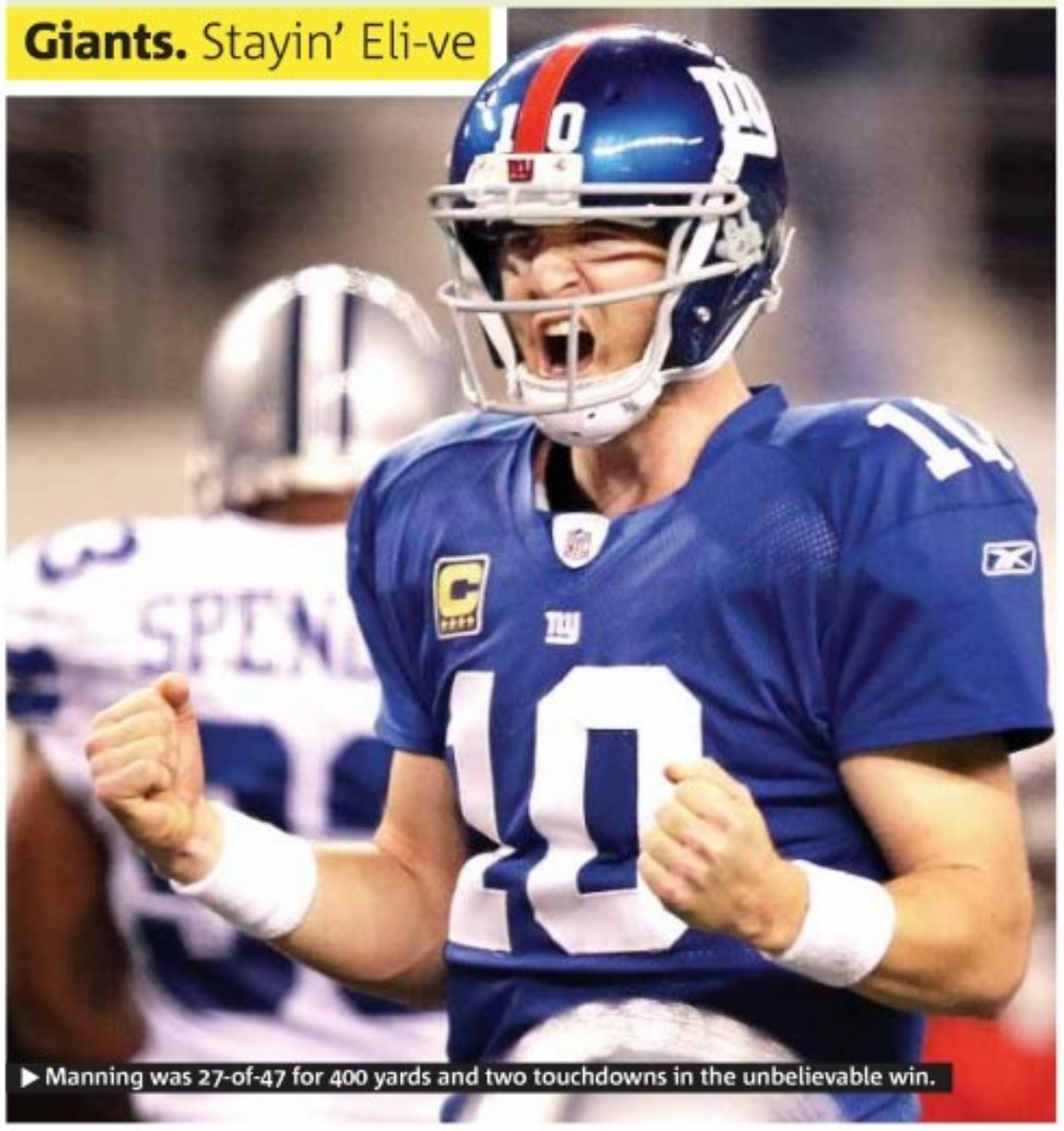
RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Giants. Stayin' Eli-ve



▶ Manning was 27-of-47 for 400 yards and two touchdowns in the unbelievable win.

Giants win in comeback fashion

The Giants' season looked like it was over. After a blown coverage and an easy touchdown, they trailed 34-22 with under six minutes left. Eli Manning wasn't ready to quit. He drove the team for two touchdowns to win the game, 37-34. {page 27}

Raking it in on loaning your pad? Not so fast

▶ Trading apartment stays for cash, Airbnb a popular but risky business ▶ Council may increase fines {page 02}

Jobs

Santa Claus: Hardest-working man on planet

▶ Old Kris Kringle on cookies 'n' milk economy and kids {page 24}

Tenants run risks in renting rooms

Many New Yorkers rent out their digs for some extra dough City Council wants to strengthen law that makes it illegal to charge 'guests'

One Park Slope couple has made $10,000 renting out this spare room on Airbnb.

This month, thousands of New Yorkers will hand over their apartment keys to strangers, making a few extra bucks by renting out their homes when they head out of town.

But they might not know they're actually breaking a city law. A law that went into effect this past May bans renting out apartments for fewer than 30 days.

The law was created to target residential buildings illegally converted into makeshift hotels, but still applies to those who rent out their room for a night or two on popular sites like Airbnb.com.

By the numbers

9K+

A recent Airbnb search for "New York" listed 9,204 people opening up their apartments for rent.

702

The city 311 hot line has received 702 complaints about illegal hotels since May, according to the mayor's office, resulting in 1,173 violations issued.

44

The city shut down Loftstel, a hostel in Brooklyn, in May. The owners illegally turned the three-family home into a rooming house for 44 guests, according to the mayor's office. The owners were also issued safety violations, including for having inadequate smoke alarms.

Enforcement is based on complaints, so the city can issue violations and fines — but only after a neighbor calls 311 and complains, said city spokesman Marc LaVorgna.

And New Yorkers who rent out their rooms on Airbnb have indeed been fined, said LaVorgna. One Clinton Hill youth hostel, Loftstel, which advertised on Airbnb, was slapped with a full vacate order in May, he said.

Fines for illegally renting out rooms can range from $800 to $2,500, but it's not the renter who pays, it's the landlord.

Tomorrow, the City Council will mull increasing the penalties to illegal hotels, said City Councilwoman Gale Brewer, upping the fines to as high as $25,000.

Airbnb.com encourages hosts to investigate local laws and make sure they are in compliance.

"Given the growing number of people who rent their extra space, there's obviously a demand in New York that's not been met," said Airbnb spokeswoman Kim Rubey.

ALISON BOWEN and EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN

Which one would you choose?

NEW YORK. A Midtown hotel room will set you back $300 a night, but a Bed-Stuy studio was advertised last week on Airbnb for $69 a night. One Park Slope couple, who asked to remain anonymous, told Metro they plan to rent out a spare room in their apartment for about $100 a night later this month while away visiting family. They have used Airbnb since May, usually charging $150 a night for the entire apartment, or $85 for just the spare room. They've made $10,000 since May. METRO/AB

High risk involved in opening your home

NEW YORK. This summer, a San Francisco Airbnb user said her apartment was trashed and burgled — someone smashed a hole in a locked closet door and stole her passport and grandmother's jewelry.

Real estate lawyer Ron Gitter said that renters should consider the risks, including being held liable for anything guests do.

"You're consenting to someone's occupancy," he said. "You could be held liable for their actions or their failure to act — starting a fire, or a violent act or damaging your apartment." METRO/AB

$50,000

After the San Francisco incident, Airbnb said they would cover theft or vandalism losses up to $50,000 for hosts.

In the news

Cops: MTA boss stabs co-worker

An MTA maintenance supervisor was charged with assault Saturday after he allegedly stabbed a co-worker while on duty in the Bronx. Alex Davis, 41, was arrested after he gashed another MTA employee in the stomach following a dispute, police said. METRO/EAE

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TSA 'passenger advocates' pitched

After three women claim they were strip-searched at JFK, senator wants to see on-call customer service reps

Local politicians want the Transportation Security Administration to take action following complaints from three elderly women that they were strip-searched at JFK airport last month.

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer and New York State Senator Michael Gianaris want the TSA to designate "passenger advocates," so passengers who feel violated can speak out immediately.

The passenger advocate would be on call in every airport, ready to be summoned to the site of a customer's complaint, said a spokesman from Schumer's office.

"Right now, passengers who feel that their rights are about to be violated have nowhere to turn," said Schumer.

The three women — Lenore Zimmerman, 85, Ruth Sherman, 88, and 66-year-old Linda Kallish — all claim they were violated by TSA agents in separate incidents at JFK airport.

▶ Schumer

"We need to make sure that flying does not become a fear-inducing and potentially humiliating experience." SCHUMER

In each instance, the women opted not to be scanned because of medical reasons: a heart defibrillator, a colostomy bag and an insulin pump, respectively. After opting out, they claim they were forced to remove their clothing to be inspected by TSA agents.

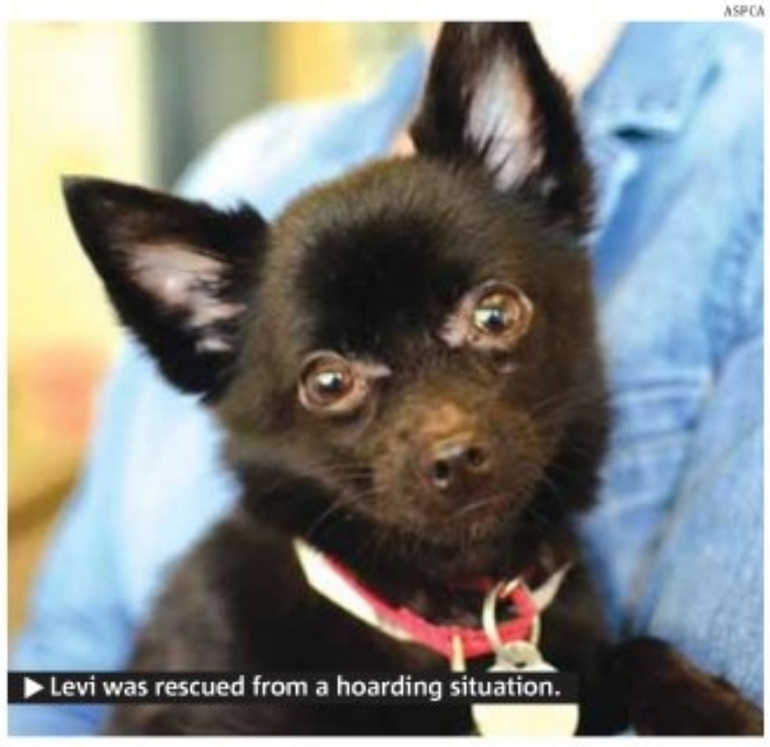
"There is no good reason why an individual should be violated in such an outrageous manner," Gianaris said. "Passengers should not be humiliated and degraded during their travels."

The TSA refuted the women's claims, saying that strip-searches are not part of their protocol. Gianaris and Schumer are calling for full investigations of the incidents.

EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN
emily.epstein@metro.us

Adopt a pet with Metro

ASPCA


▶ Levi was rescued from a hoarding situation.

Hi! My name is Levi, and I'm a 1-year-old Schipperke mix.

The ASPCA's Cruelty Intervention Advocacy program rescued me, along with a whole bunch of my friends, from a hoarding situation, so I'm still getting used to the big world.

I'm trying to move on from my past, but being a family dog is a new thing for me — so I'm scared of new things (which is pretty much everything). If you come play with me at the Adoption Center, I'm going to be pretty shy. But I promise I will try and open up if you stick with me!

I loved to play with my previous roommates, but haven't had much interaction with other dogs. I haven't quite learned how to play with toys yet, but I could become more playful once I find a good home. If you're an experienced and patient dog owner in a quiet, adults-only home, please give me a chance.

I am neutered and up to date on all vaccinations. I come with a microchip and free follow-up vet exam. So stop by the ASPCA Adoption Center and take me home as your new best friend today!

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Subway robber arrested

GRAND CENTRAL. He robbed from the wrong subway rider. A Bronx man was nabbed by police yesterday afternoon, after he lifted an Apple iPhone from the backpack of a plainclothes decoy police officer while aboard the No. 4 train at Grand Central Station. Raymond Rodriguez, 47, was charged with grand larceny. The NYPD recently doubled the number of decoy cops in the subway. METRO/CB

27 Rodriguez had 27 unsealed prior arrests, say police, including for assault and burglary as well as robbery charges.

Architects apologize

MVRDV

NETHERLANDS. The Dutch design firm that recently came under fire for its 9/11 look-alike building "The Cloud" has apologized to all they have offended. In a statement they released on their website, MVRDV claims that any likeness their South Korean construction bears to the World Trade Center's destruction was unintentional. METRO/EAE

Yoga suit even more tangled

US Copyright Office rethinking position on yoga copyrights News adds new twist in ongoing yoga war

EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN/METRO

The U.S. Copyright Office is "re-evaluating" its stance on yoga copyrights, adding fuel to a feud between an East Village-based yogi and his guru.

Last month, international guru Bikram Choudhury sued New York's Yoga to the People for infringing on what Choudhury says is his copyrighted sequence of sweltering yoga moves. Choudhury demanded a $1 million payout.

On Dec. 9, Greg Gumucio, owner of Yoga to the People, filed his response claiming Choudhury does not have the copyright.

Included in Gumucio's response is an e-mail from Laura Lee Fischer, acting chief of the Performing Arts Division of the U.S. Copyright Office: "We determined that exercises, including yoga exercises, do not constitute the subject matter that Congress intended to protect as choreography," wrote Fischer.

Previously, the U.S. Copyright Office considered yoga sequences a type of choreography, which is subject to copyright.

Gumucio heralded the e-mail as evidence that Choudhury lacks a valid copyright, but Robert Gilchrest, Choudhury's attorney, called it "inconsequential fodder to the litigation."

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ALLISON JOYCE/GETTY IMAGES

Christmas. Pub crawl

Santas sing near Battery Park on Saturday.

Santas jingle all the way

Thousands of revelers clad in red and white made their way throughout Manhattan on Saturday afternoon as part of the annual SantaCon. METRO/EAE

ACNE

Eczema Psoriasis Rosacea Rashes

#60

Guaranteed better than all others they used say dozens of delighted users with full names and towns on the Bell website. Works by cleansing blood inside rather than attacking skin from the outside and leaving the actual cause untreated. Here are a few examples:

By Dr. C. Hammoud Ph.D.

■ **I had terrible Acne** for 3 years and tried products with Benzoyl Peroxide, Aloe Vera and others. After 4 days taking the Bell natural product #60 it started to clear up my skin. My skin changed from terrible to beautiful. *Mylene Theriault, 19, Sorel-Tracy, QC* ■ **In 2 days** my son's face completely cleared up of acne. My son is 15 and suffered for 3 years. We used many products like laser, Neem that did not work or burned his skin. *Veronica Marden, Seminole, TX* ■ **Unbelievable acne free beautiful skin** Last couple of years I had acne and tried every product and antibiotics. Results with #60 were unbelievable. Thanks for giving me beautiful skin and my self-esteem. *Nelisa Royer, 28, Doral, FL* ■ **Within 6 days eczema cleared** up completely. I believe #60 addresses the cause internally instead of the symptoms. *Latifa Boutshik, 43, North York, ON* ■ **I had severe psoriasis** over 95% of my body. Last 5 years I have stunned every doctor and dermatologist. I spent tons of money on remedies. After I got Bell #60, I've never seen anything work as fast in my life. Within 2 days I saw my skin clearing up. I'm speechless. It was inexpensive compared with what I spent before. *Jessica Shantz, 25, Dawson Creek, BC* ■ **All statements** made on the Bell website are sent by delighted users. All are real people. Most have listed phone numbers and can be called for advice. No money is paid to them. Their reward is the relief they are getting. All say #60 works within days not months, not years. It's more effective than what they used before. It is less expensive (some acne suppliers ship monthly and charge monthly, which may amount to large sums yearly). No side effects were reported on #60. **TRUE EVIDENCE that we are helping people.**

High Blood Pressure?

High blood pressure is called the silent killer. If your BP is higher than normal, try to get it down to about 120/80. For many people it is easy to control. If it does not work for you we refund your money. On our website you will find over 50 testimonials with full names and towns from all over USA and Canada. Most of them have listed phone numbers and are happy to talk about the relief they had. No money was paid for testimonials.

#26

Dr. C. Hammoud M.H., Ph.D. recommends this effective fish peptide blood pressure natural product. So does Dr. Julian Whitaker M.D. ■ **I was on 3 blood pressure drugs** that did not work well. After starting Bell #26 my readings are generally well below 120/80. *Dona A. Anderson, 76, Sooke, BC* ■ **My blood pressure was 157/90** and I had side effects from prescription drugs. I bought a monitor. After 6 months on Bell #26 I was down to 120/80. *Toni L. McCuistion, 52, Elizabethtown, PA* ■ **At work my driver's medical** test was too high at 170/100. After taking Bell #26 for a few days I went down to 128/84 which allowed me to pass my work medical. *Kris Geier, 48, Windsor, ON.* **Bell is helping people everywhere.**

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SNORING? SLEEP APNEA?

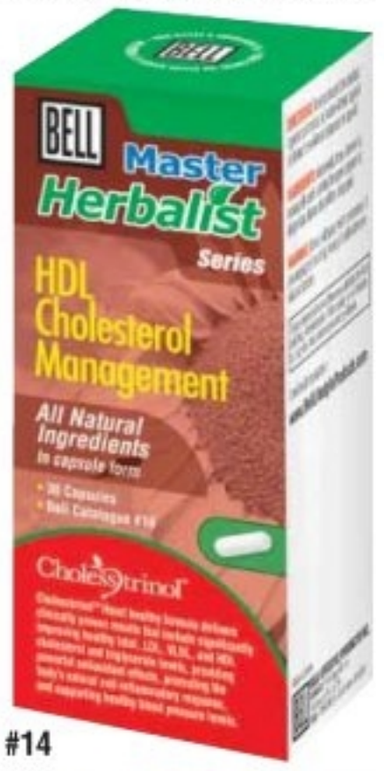
#23

Most older men and many women snore and have sleep apnea (gasping for air) :

To my surprise, after taking **Bell Snoring & Sleep Apnea Relief #23** I really didn't snore or gasp for air anymore. I sleep through the night and feel rested and refreshed in the morning. *Mark Wilson, 40, Hudson, NH* ■ **Sleep apnea capsules worked first night!** For last 15 years I had sleep apnea and my doctor made me buy a CPAP machine, which I could not use. Finally Bell #23 helped the first night and every night thereafter. Like a miracle. Unbelievable. *Karen Braun, 67, Glace Bay, NS* ■ **For 20 years I was waking up frequently gasping for air.** During the day I would start napping every time I would sit down, because I was tired. Since taking Bell #23 sleeping 6 hours is heaven. It made a substantial change in my life. *Mary C. Myrick, 62, Jackson, MS* ■ **It is such a joy not having to use the CPAP machine.** I have had sleep apnea for 10 years. I was skeptical about Bell Snoring & Sleep Apnea Eze #23. After using it for 3 weeks my wife says there is no more snoring or gasping for breath or stoppage of breathing. It is such a joy to be able to roll to left or right with no hose or mask to deal with and can get up with no restrictions. Thank you Bell for a great relief. I suggest anyone with these problems to try it. You will be overjoyed with the results. *Wayne Burse, 63, Beamsville, ON* **Bell is helping people everywhere.**

Cholesterol Control

■ **Cholesterol and triglycerides under control!** For the last 5-6 years I have been told that my cholesterol and triglycerides were out of line. After taking Bell Cholesterol Control #14 my doctor said he was amazed about the change. This is a good product. *Jerome Nettles, 51, Monroeville, AL* ■ **All statin drugs gave me pain!** My doctor tried them all on me. So he said to try a natural product. After taking Bell Cholesterol Control #14 I have no more pain. I'm so happy about this. *Deanna O'Neil, 63, Tecumseh, ON.* ■ **I had great success with all Bell health products!** In the last 2 years I had relief with Bell Prostate Ezee Flow Tea, HDL Cholesterol Management, Blood Pressure Combo and Stem Cell Activator. I love your products. They all work for me. Great results. That's all that matters. *Basil Richards, 49, S.W. Ranches, FL* ■ **20 years of high cholesterol alleviated!** I had high cholesterol for 20 years and drugs didn't agree with me. After taking Bell Cholesterol Control #14 for 6 months I had a check-up and was surprised about the big improvement. I was delighted and extremely happy and so was my doctor. Norma Hrysio, 65, Lac Du Bonnet, MB. **We supply TRUE EVIDENCE.**



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A Matter of Health 1478 1st Ave. @ E 77th St. **Ajanta Pharmacy** 2718 8th Ave. @ 145th St
Arrow Pharmacy 883 9th Ave. @ 57th St. **Blake Pharmacy** 1868 3rd Ave. @ 103rd St.
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"Things are tight. $25,000 is not enough to live on in New York City. We can barely make it." ABISAI PEREZ

Metro donated 200 toys from our Metro Magic campaign to holiday dinner for homeless families Nearly 500 children in attendance For some kids, this will be the only gift they get this season, organizers say

KATE FITCH/METRO

▶ Dominick Perez, left, and his older sister, LaMira, open toys at the holiday dinner.

This Saturday, Metro packed up 200 of the toys readers had already sent to our office and dropped them off at a holiday dinner held by The Partnership for the Homeless.

There, nearly 500 children who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless got a chance to have their face painted and sit on Santa's lap. Every child left the dinner, held at the Brooklyn Children's Museum in Crown Heights, with at least one toy, as well as socks, a hat and gloves to keep them warm all winter long.

Every night, more than 16,500 kids sleep in homeless shelters throughout the city, a number that's at an all-time high, according to Arnold Cohen, CEO of the Partnership.

A family a few months behind on their rent, or living in substandard housing, is considered at-risk of becoming homeless, explained Carla Brown-Ndiaye, director of the Family Resource Center in East New York.

Princess Yannah, 23, and her boyfriend, Abisai Perez, 29, are one such family. They both work seasonal jobs for the city — she's a park patrol officer and he's a lifeguard — and make a combined $25,000 a year. It's barely enough to live on, much less raise their two young children, ages 5 and 2, said Yannah.

In addition, the Brooklyn building where they live has no heat and is under foreclosure.

"We could be evicted tomorrow," said Perez. "They could keep us or throw us out. We don't know."

CARLY BALDWIN
carly.baldwin@metro.us

Metro Magic toy drive

▶ Thank you to those who have already given.

1: Log on to www.metro.us and look for this Metro Magic logo:

2: One click on the logo will take you to a "Wish List" we have set up via a secure link on ToysRUs.com. Once there, you can see all the toys we've already requested, with more added daily.

▶ Buying only the toys on our Wish List ensures that all the gifts purchased will be sent directly to Metro's offices in Lower Manhattan.

▶ Any reader who buys a toy through Metro is eligible to win a free 42-inch LCD TV from Kiss Electronics, located at 230 W. 125th St. Or call 212-932-1117.

METRO

Homeless getting younger?

NEW YORK. More than 70 percent of the people staying in the city's homeless shelters are families with children, and the majority of those children are school-aged, said Cohen.

"We always think of homelessness as that fellow on the street corner, but the face of homelessness these days in New York City is most often a child." METRO/CB

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What causes osteoarthritis?

The cause of osteoarthritis is unknown. Factors that might cause it include the following:

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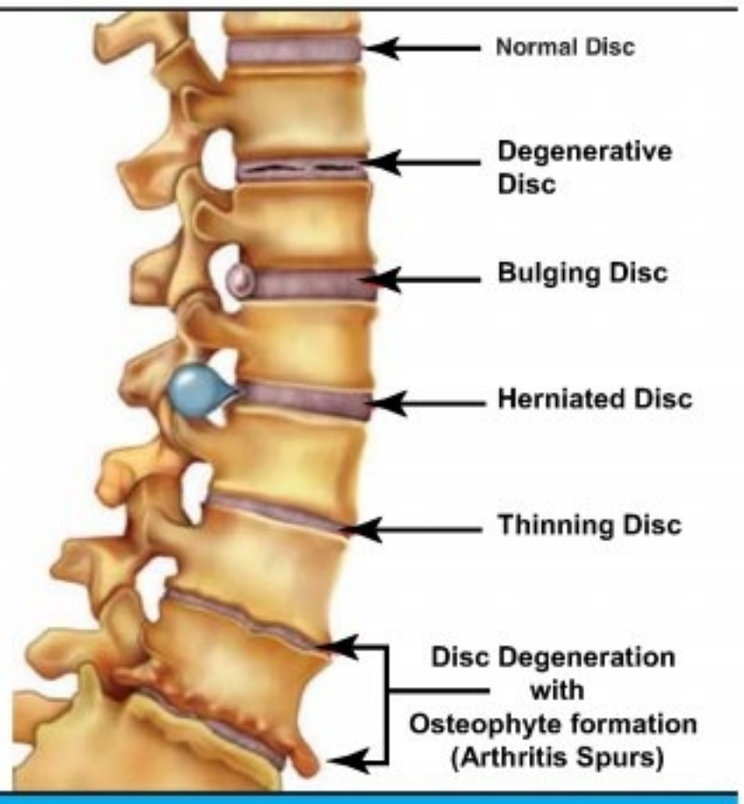
- **Getting Older (wear and tear)**
- **Joint Injury**
- **Joints that are not properly formed (alignment/imbalance problems)**
- **A genetic defect in the joint cartilage**
- **Stresses on the joints from certain activities including sports, work and leisure activities**

What else is available to treat knee pain?

After careful study and several trials the FDA cleared a new treatment aimed at helping those with knee pain. This new treatment is a high tech answer for all those who think that surgery, dietary supplements and prescription medications are the only option to eliminate knee pain.



"We have helped hundreds relieve their knee and back pain without surgery."

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Are you considering surgery to alleviate knee pain?
Have you tried everything to get rid of knee pain with no success?

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How do I know that this is right for me?

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photo focus

Crane 'carries' moon in illusion

SWITZERLAND. They're good at banking, cuckoo clocks and chocolates, and it looks like the Swiss are also handy at getting a hook onto the moon. In truth this is just an optical illusion, an amazing example of forced perspective photography. Amateur photographer Bruno Gerber took this shot from his friend's roof in Bern.

The 37-year-old corporate lawyer from near Zurich offers advice on a mind-boggling image: "Keep your eyes open, think ahead (e.g. where the moon or sun will go, how a shadow moves) and don't sit idle. But I'm not a fan of overly set-up, silly illusion shots with people." METRO WORLD NEWS

BRUNO GERBER/SOLENT NEWS

▶ In this photographic optical illusion shot in Switzerland, a construction crane appears to be holding the moon.

Quoted

"I waited seven minutes for the moon to rise and get 'hooked' onto the crane."
BRUNO GERBER, AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER

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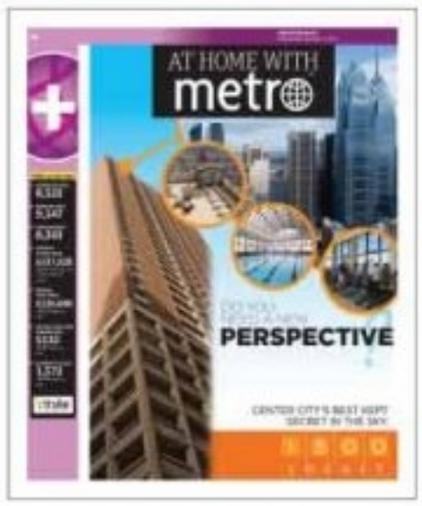
January 9-13: We'll feature a five-day guide series to support 2012 with special features in each weekly My Metro section.



MONDAY

Education
Hot majors in 2012.

Jobs
We'll prepare you with what you need to know before you begin the search.

TUESDAY

Travel
The top must-see destinations of 2012.

WEDNESDAY

Real Estate
Predictions, new developments and a fresh start: getting your home organized and ready for 2012.

FRIDAY

Going Out
New trends in food and drink featuring our picks from foodies, bartenders and chefs. Plus, the most anticipated restaurants of the new year.

Weekend
The new faces in entertainment: The artists in film, music, TV and arts that you need to know.

NEW

MONDAY-THURSDAY: HEALTH AND WELLBEING

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Fitness	**Parenting/Kids**	**Mind/Spirit**	**Dating**

PLUS: With our Health and Wellbeing section now 4 days a week, we'll give you the extensive 2012 guide to the latest in medical procedures, fitness breakthroughs, diets, parenting and more!

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It's time to cast your vote

When Metro launched the Man and Woman of the Year event in November, we knew that this year, groups of people, such as the Navy SEAL Team 6 who killed Osama bin Laden, would be nominated.

For that reason, instead of the usual Man of the Year shortlist, and a separate Woman of the Year shortlist, we are producing just a single shortlist of three nominees for the title of Person of the Year 2012.

The nominees are ...

The list is headed by the co-founder of Apple, **Steve Jobs**, who died in October.

metro
MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR
2011

Also making the shortlist are the **Occupy protestors** — or the 99 percent as they were alternatively labeled by the hundreds of readers who nominated them. The third nominee on the list is Congresswoman **Gabrielle Giffords**, who was shot in January by a lone gunman, and whose subsequent recovery proved an inspiration to millions.

How to vote:
*Vote for your favorite by emailing **mwoty@metro.us** Metro will update readers on voting each day. Voting closes at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 21, and we'll be announcing our winner in Metro's special end-of-year edition on Dec. 27.*

EVORE DIANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Republican presidential candidates participate in a GOP presidential debate at Drake University on Saturday.

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Anne Sofie von Otter Mezzo-soprano

Dec 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE
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Gingrich fights off rivals in GOP debate

- Current frontrunner keeps his cool against attacks from Romney, Perry
- Mitt offers $10,000 bet that rival doesn't know what he's talking about

Surging frontrunner Newt Gingrich fought off heavy attacks in a presidential debate in Iowa on Saturday from Republican rivals who portrayed him as a Washington insider and questioned his judgment.

Gingrich, described by some critics as rash and petulant, kept his cool as his Republican rivals criticized him for making up to $1.6 million from housing giant Freddie Mac, for saying Palestinians were an "invented" people and for his troubled marital past.

Mitt Romney, the former frontrunner and once the presumed nominee, contrasted his business experience with Gingrich's background in Washington.

"We don't need folks who are lifetime Washington people," Romney said, adding his time as head of a private equity firm helped him understand how to turn around the economy and made him more electable than a Washington politician like Gingrich.

Quoted

- **"Let's be candid. The only reason you didn't become a career politician is you lost to Teddy Kennedy (in Massachusetts Senate election) in 1994."**
  - Gingrich to Romney
- "I spent my life in the private sector. I understand how the economy works and I believe that for Americans to say goodbye to President Obama and elect a Republican, they need to have confidence that the person they're electing knows how to make this economy work again."
  - Romney on his differences with Gingrich
- **"You're for individual mandates. And you can get up and stand up and talk about, 'I'm against it now.' ... But the record is very clear, you and Newt were for individual mandates and that is the problem."**
  - Perry on Romney's health care reform in Mass.

WRITE TO METRO:
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It was the first debate since Gingrich roared past Romney to take a big lead in polls in the Republican battle to pick a 2012 challenger to President Barack Obama, and the other candidates were quick to attack.

U.S. Reps. Michele Bachmann and Ron Paul criticized Gingrich as a hypocrite who profited from his contacts and wound up taking taxpayer money when Freddie Mac was bailed out by the federal government. REUTERS

Romney's $10K bet falls flat

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney put his money where his mouth was on Saturday in a quip at a presidential debate that may have backfired.

Romney, a multimillionaire, offered a $10,000 bet to opponent Texas Gov. Rick Perry over what Romney wrote about health care in his book "No Apologies." Romney's wealth has long been a point of attack by those who say he is out of touch with Americans. REUTERS

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2

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Kelly Osbourne is not having a great day, Justin Bieber is hitting the ice, Elizabeth Banks is pleasantly surprised and Conan O'Brien is getting into the holiday spirit.

▶ @MissKellyO
i have the worlds worst head ache sitting in the dark all moody because of it!

▶ @justinbieber
A little #hockey with the fellas

▶ @ElizabethBanks
This public gas station rest room is two ticks better than exactly what you're expecting.

▶ @ConanOBrien
I took my kids to see the guy in the red suit today. That's right, the Spider-Man on Hollywood Boulevard.

Bieber

The perils of party-rocking

GETTY IMAGES

▶ RedFoo of LMFAO performed at Z100's Jingle Ball on Friday night.

While **Demi Lovato** whizzed by the press line at Z100's Jingle Ball Friday night — an annual New York City concert featuring a number of Top 40 acts — we were happy to chat with **RedFoo** of **LMFAO**, who's partner **SkyBlu** was noticeably absent for the big show.

"SkyBlu hurt his back," Foo told Metro before the concert started. "He has some herniated discs. He's been performing for a while injured, because he's a true champion, but the doctor said, 'You gotta take a break.' That shuffle move we do, when he does it, I always tell him you need to bend [at the knee]. And then with the wiggle, you can't wiggle too hard, even if there's sexy ladies in the audience screaming at you — you gotta keep it confined. So we don't know exactly what has happened, but we think it's [a combination of] the shuffle, the wiggle and the ladies."

But SkyBlu's injury isn't holding the group back for the new year. On their to-do list for 2012? "Films," Foo says. "Taking the whole LMFAO party rock lifestyle and putting it on the big screen."

— With additional reporting by Meredith Engel

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DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG

Abigail's lips are sealed

Also on the carpet before Jingle Ball was "New Year's Eve" star **Abigail Breslin**, who looked all grown up in a Rag & Bone dress and smoky eye makeup. But the 15-year-old movie star and budding songstress (Jingle Ball was her first appearance as a singer in the band **C.A.B.B.**) tells us that going through puberty in the public eye hasn't been weird for her.

"When I come home, I do the same things all my friends do — clean my room, feed the dog. There are definitely pressures, but I think that keeping perspective is really important," Breslin tells Metro.

But that doesn't mean she doesn't have her cringe-worthy moments.

"2008 was just a really big fashion mistake," she says, "with the arm warmers, the neon and zebra-print Converse."

Breslin

And since Abigail's character in "New Year's Eve" is hoping to get her first kiss on the big night, we wanted to know what her first kiss was like — but she wouldn't spill.

"I'll keep the offscreen kisses offscreen," she tells us.

Talking points

Aniston wins for 'Sexiest' of all time

Men's Health has dubbed **Jennifer Aniston** the Sexiest Woman of All Time, but while she's flattered by their decision, Aniston insists the title would've gone to someone else if she had any say in it. "It's a tie between **Brigitte Bardot** and **Gloria Steinem**," she tells the magazine. "But if I had to choose one, I'd say Gloria because, well, she's the full package. That's sexy." **Raquel Welch**, **Marilyn Monroe**, **Britney Spears** and **Madonna** rounded out the top five.

ADAM ROSE/FOX

▶ Are there problems at William McKinley High School?

A not so 'Glee'-ful set

Tensions are reportedly running high on the set of "Glee" as the cast of the hit musical series is said to be at odds with boss **Ryan Murphy**, according to Us Weekly. "Things are really bad on set," a show source says. "The cast talks about how much they love Ryan, but they have grown to hate him." The main complaints have reportedly been about long working hours and low pay, but Murphy's behavior is a factor as well. "He has bad mood swings and can be really mean," a source says. "The cast bas been speaking about banding together against him, and **Lea [Michele]** is leading the charge." Michele's rep denies there's any tension.

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Tori Amos gets spiritual and other pics from the weekend

1. Tori Amos performed at Massey Hall at Massey Hall on Thursday in Toronto.

2. Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt attended the premiere of Jolie's new film "In the Land of Blood and Honey" held at ArcLight Hollywood on Thursday in Hollywood.

3. Actor Robert Downey, Jr. and director Guy Ritchie attended "Sherlock Holmes: Games Of Shadows" at Hassler Hotel on Sunday in Rome, Italy.

4. Fergie of the Black Eyed Peas and actress Olivia Munn attended The Hollywood Foreign Press Association and InStyle's "A Night of Firsts" at Cecconi's Restaurant on Thursday in Los Angeles.

5. Charlize Theron attended the world premiere of "Young Adult," for which she is receiving rave reviews, at the Ziegfeld Theatre on Thursday in New York City.

6. Oh, hey, remember Charlie Sheen? He spoke onstage at Spike TV's "2011 Video Game Awards" at Sony Studios on Saturday in Los Angeles.

7. Sarah Jessica Parker was spotted with her adorable daughter Marion Broderick on Friday in New York City.

1: IAN GAVAN/GETTY IMAGES
2: ERIC CHARBONNEAU/WIREIMAGE
3: ELISABETTA A. VILLA/GETTY IMAGES
4: JOHN SHEARER/GETTY IMAGES FOR INSTYLE
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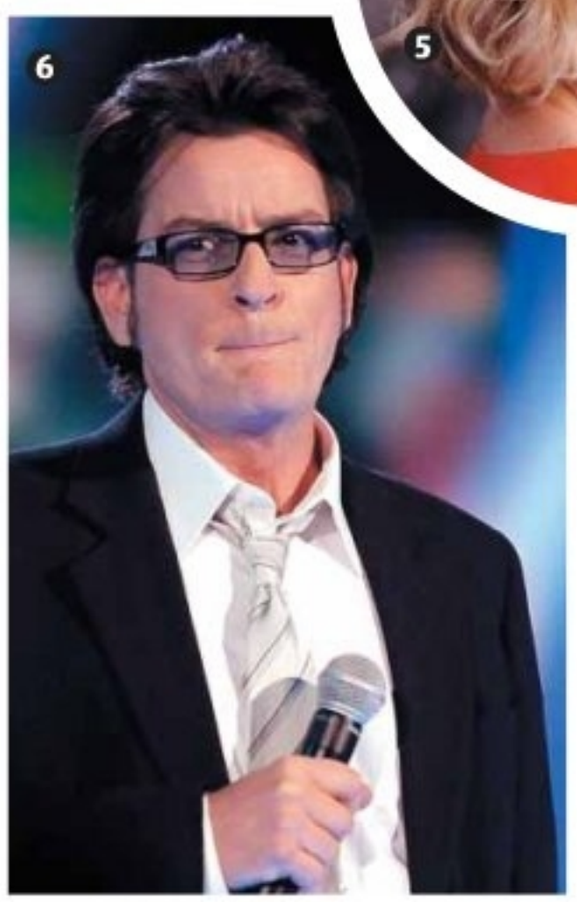

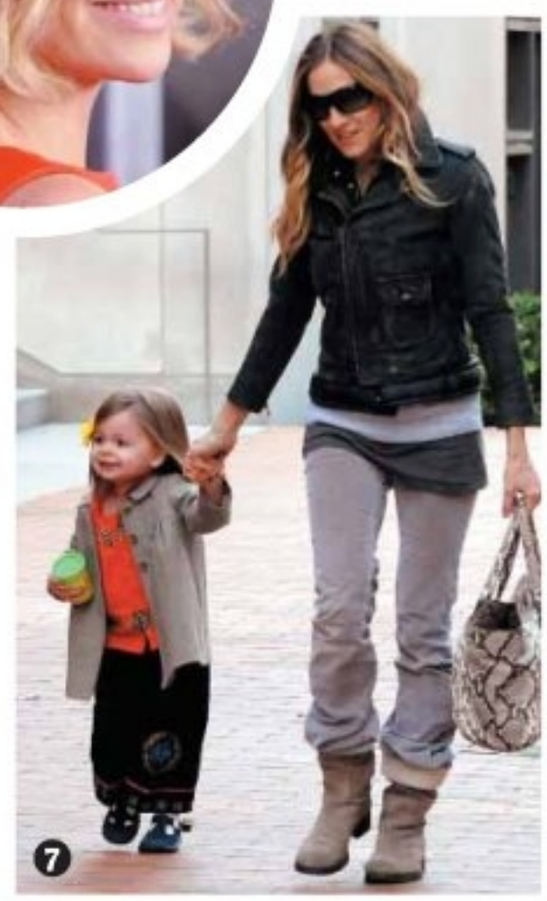

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Playing the party girl

Ari Graynor talks about 'getting into the ring' with Jonah Hill for 'The Sitter' What the most awkward day at work entails

If there's one girl who knows her way around the role of brash party girl, it's 28-year-old Bostonian Ari Graynor. As a severely inebriated best pal in "Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist" and more recently as a "friend with benefits" to Jonah Hill's character in "The Sitter," Graynor's got the formula for chemically enhanced flake down to a science. But this time around, with "Pineapple Express" director David Gordon Green at the helm and Hill carrying the film, Graynor got to improvise her way through what was already a solid script.

"When you're working with someone like Jonah, who is so talented and so smart and knows how to guide improvisations that work for a character and for the story, it's much easier to loosen up and play around," she says. "That's the luxury of working with such talented people — that you have a guide ... that you know it's going to be guided down the right path. There's an ease to it."

"That's always an interesting day at work — when you find yourself with a new friend's head between your legs and 100 people standing around."
GRAYNOR

One thing that was perhaps not so easy was the opening scene of the film, in which Hill's character is, ahem, servicing Graynor in a very personal way.

"So, that's always an interesting day at work — when you find yourself with a new friend's head between your legs and 100 people standing around. Like, really?" Graynor laughs. "This is what I'm doing? I have some friends that are becoming doctors or social workers. They're teaching kids in the Bronx and here I am with my legs spread, fake-orgasming, just trying to get through it without ruining the take. It's one way to make a living."

▶ These two have been close — incredibly close. "The Sitter" is in theaters now.

Graynor goes Broadway

Graynor is currently starring in the Broadway play "Relatively Speaking," which features three one-act plays. Alongside works by Ethan Coen and Elaine May is Woody Allen's play, "Honeymoon Motel," in which Graynor stars.

"Woody Allen would be doing Woody Allen to me and then I'd be doing it back to him and then I'd run on onstage," she says of her working relationship with the legendary director. "We'd have notes after every show in the theater. That in and of itself is worth its weight in gold. And, if I happen to find myself in one of his movies, then even better."

HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us

TV watch list

'Fear Factor'

REALITY. What's old is gross again as "Fear Factor" and host Joe Rogan return from a six-year hiatus with bigger stunts and more disgusting bugs on the menu. **Season premiere, 8 p.m., NBC**

'Enlightened'

COMEDY. Amy convinces Levi to seek treatment, but if there's one thing we've learned this season, it's that this woman is still a work in progress herself — as seen when she defies Dougie at work and makes a presentation to Damon's group. **Season finale, 9:30 p.m., HBO**

MICHAEL WEAVER/NBC

▶ This challenge: "Cow Heart Transfer." Yep, "Fear Factor" is back.

'Battle of the Nutcrackers'

REALITY. No, this isn't a fastest walnut squasher competition. (Hey, if "Fear Factor" exists, why can't our idea?) This is an international ballet faceoff hosted by Nigel Lythgoe and Debbie Allen, with viewers' favorite rendition on the holiday classic revealed on Christmas Eve. **8 p.m., Ovation**

'Rollin' with Zach'

REALITY. Zach Anner, co-winner of Oprah's "Your OWN Show," hosts this new travel series, in which the 27-year-old with cerebral palsy travels the nation ticking Top 5 moments off his must-see list. **Series premiere, 8 p.m., OWN** AMBER RAY

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This French duo's sophomore album, 'Both Ways Open Jaws,' is destined for late entry year-end 'best of' lists, as well as early entry 'ones to watch' lists

THE DØ CAN DO NO WRONG

COURTESY OF THE MUSEBOX

"Both Ways Open Jaws," the recently released album by The Dø, enters through a rare window in time where it will probably make a lot of music publications' "best of 2011" lists. Then when writers who don't put it on that list see that some of their peers have chosen it, the French duo's album will inevitably make their "ones to watch in 2012" lists.

"Both Ways" is worthy of both. It instantly feels classic and contemporary. And like the most exciting music, the album is rife with unexpected combinations that sometimes seem at opposite ends of the spectrum — it is celebratory and it is agitated; it is majestic and it is raw; it is artsy and it is poppy. Basically, it sounds the way you'd expect Lady Gaga to sound if you had only ever seen photos of her.

There are free jazz freakouts, stomping feet, woozy horns, marimbas and soft blankets of harmonies. What is most apparent is that Olivia Merilahti and Dan Levy are in love with sounds as well as songs.

"Usually, guitar is the first instrument I use for the songwriting," says Merilahti. "We think it's really important to have a song that also works with just guitar and vocals. ... But it usually gets eliminated by more interesting sounds and there's just no room anymore for that guitar."

This album is the second for The Dø. With their debut, "A Mouthful," they became the first English-speaking French act to top the charts in their homeland.

"I spoke Finnish and French when I started speaking," says Merilahti. "Then I just listened to so many different [English-speaking] singers and I really wanted to know what the songs were about, so I always read the booklets very carefully and wanted to learn the words I didn't know. That's how I built my vocabulary."

She says the first song she learned this way was Hole's "Violet," with its opening line of, "And the sky was made of amethyst." Merilahti makes similar poetic leaps with her words.

"I really have a certain distance with the lyrics and they're all so very intimate," she says. "It's very difficult for me to describe."

Upon further discussion, and being asked about the "Both Ways Open Jaws" title, Merilahti reveals more.

"It's about feeling in danger from all parts, and it's also like when you're in danger, you start to protect yourself, so it's also the beginning of aggressiveness," she says. "I'm scared of a lot of things, and I think I'm starting to struggle against that. ... Dan is a very brave guy. When you're exploring emotions and taking chances in the studio, it requires a lot of courage."

PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

Why dø they call themselves that?

The Dø pronounce their name like "dough" as in the first note of the solfège scale, as in do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti-do. But what is that little slash through the o?

"We just wanted it to look like a note, like when you write music in music theory," says Merilahti. "It really looks like a musical symbol."

www.metro.us
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READ THE FULL PROFILE OF THE DØ

Sounds kinda like

There are hints of influences all over "Both Ways Open Jaws," but instead of rattling them off as reference points, we gave Merilahti a chance to confirm or deny them.

Did you listen to Stereolab growing up?
No, not at all, and someone told me about them a couple of days ago. They said, "You should tour with Stereolab if they still played together," or something. Maybe Dan has, but I'm not sure.
Joanna Newsom?
Yeah, I love her so much.
How about Radiohead?
It's kind of a late reference for both of us. ... Dan didn't listen to many songs when he was younger. He was more into instrumental and 20th century classical music or jazz, and I was always like, "Oh everyone's listening to Radiohead," so I wouldn't. ... But it's kind of impossible to ignore.
What was the first band you two connected with?
Wu-Tang Clan. There was a lot of hip-hop. Eminem was also one of them. And Ella Fitzgerald!

Box office

Early 'New Year's Eve' wins weekend box office

An early "New Year's Eve" led the weekend box office charts as movie audiences turned to the holiday romance over new comedy "The Sitter."

"New Year's Eve," a romantic comedy with a star-packed ensemble cast, rung up $13.7 million in ticket sales at U.S. and Canadian theaters during the weekend, according to studio estimates compiled by Reuters yesterday.

Adult comedy "The Sitter," starring Jonah Hill as a reluctant babysitter, brought in $10 million and landed in second place. Third place belonged to vampire romance movie "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn: Part 1" with $7.9 million.

"New Year's Eve" was produced by New Line Cinema, a unit of Time Warner Inc.'s Warner Bros., the studio that distributed the film. News Corp's 20th Century Fox studio released "The Sitter." Privately held Summit Entertainment released "Breaking Dawn."

REUTERS

myentertainment

Oswalt: 'Good times can keep happening, just not the same ones'

Comedian, author and actor Patton Oswalt warns of the dangers of nostalgia ◗ Why the 'Young Adult' star hired an acting coach, but isn't quite hoping for an EGOT

COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

▶ Patton Oswalt stars in "Young Adult," in theaters now.

"How f—ing amazing was she in this movie?" Patton Oswalt asks breathlessly when one of Charlize Theron's particularly harrowing scenes in "Young Adult" is mentioned. Theron is, indeed, amazing. But really, this film — written by Diablo Cody, directed by Jason Reitman and co-starring Oswalt — is overloaded with talent. Playing the impromptu sidekick to a woman on a mission to seduce her former high school boyfriend, who's now married, Oswalt went to great lengths to get his character right. He even hired an acting coach to tackle the role, which is something quite different from what he's used to in his stand-up career or previous film and TV appearances. The multi-hyphenate spoke to Metro in an exclusive interview about Generation X and the dangers of nostalgia.

FOR THE COMPLETE INTERVIEW, VISIT WWW.METRO.US/MOVIES

You used an acting coach for the first time with this role. Why did you think this character merited that kind of preparation?

Because the script was so good, but there was so much nuance and so much of a delicate tightrope back and forth between despair and humor. The humor never came out of "let's stick a joke here." [It] came out of real human behavior. I had this mix of exhilaration for being offered the script and then terror. I didn't want to do wrong by it, because it was so well-written.

Both you and Cody fit so many pop culture references into your work. How do your viewpoints relate?

"Juno" was, whether you like it or not, a pretty accurate depiction of how young people talk to each other. … ["Young Adult"] is more about Gen X getting older and what do they have to jettison and what do they still hold on to? I think they remember being so self-conscious about people that were baby boomers and how stupid they sounded using their old slang. Now they're almost overthinking, "Do I say the stuff I used to say?" Like it or not, it is a very accurate portrait of "this is how Gen X gets older." If you thought the baby boomers grew old in a really clumsy way, wait till you see how we do it.

You've released comedy albums and a book ("Zombie Spaceship Wasteland"), and there's awards buzz for this performance. Do you aspire to achieve an EGOT (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Tony)?

[Laughs] I just want to keep doing creative work. Obviously, I want to write, I want to do comedy. I want to do films and TV. I mean, of course I'd love an Oscar nomination. Obviously, getting a nomination would help me get more work. That is true. And also, I'd love to go to the Oscars.

HEIDI PATALANO
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Q&A

Much of the film has to do with sentimentality and trying to bring the past into the present. Are you ever tempted to do that?

▶ It's very dangerous. I'm just as guilty of it as anyone else. I think Frank Zappa said, "Some day, we're all going to die of nostalgia." You have to keep moving forward because a big part of life is loss. Things fall away and it's very childish to turn away from that. I have mixed feelings about it. It's almost like if you want the same good times to keep happening, that's what's dangerous. Good times can keep happening, just not the same ones. If you expect to be the same person having the same good time, then that's also really dangerous.

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You'll want to escape from 'Bonnie & Clyde'

Simplistic characters, a dull storyline and unremarkable songs turn this musical into a snoozefest

NATHAN JOHNSON

▶ Laura Osnes and Jeremy Jordan star in "Bonnie & Clyde," now playing at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre.

There's something to be said for glamour. And there's precious little of it to be found in "Bonnie & Clyde" at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre. The bland musical with a score by Frank Wildhorn, book by Ivan Menchell and lyrics by Don Black attempts to bring the infamous couple down from their lofty perch in the iconic Arthur Penn movie — but they seem even further away. In this attempt at historical accuracy, they're more simplistic than accessible. Bonnie (Laura Osnes) wants to be Clara Bow and Clyde (Jeremy Jordan) idolizes Al Capone.

"Bonnie and Clyde" begins with a tease of their final shootout, then flashes back to them years earlier, alongside their childhood selves (Kelsey Fowler as Young Bonnie and Talon Ackerman as Young Clyde) in Texas singing about their aspirations. They meet after Clyde breaks out of jail and are immediately smitten. Their romance grows as Clyde goes back inside, only to break out again — this time, with Bonnie's help. Their life of crime begins small — robbing grocery stores and stealing cars — but eventually escalates to bank robberies and murder.

Wildhorn's music is forgettable, and, unfortunately, so is Menchell's script. Although the stakes get higher as Clyde kills more and more people, the story arc is flat. Even when they're joined by Clyde's brother Buck (Claybourne Elder) and Buck's wife Blanche (Melissa van der Schyff), there's no sense of urgency. The bloodletting escalates, but the onstage temperature stays tepid.

If you go

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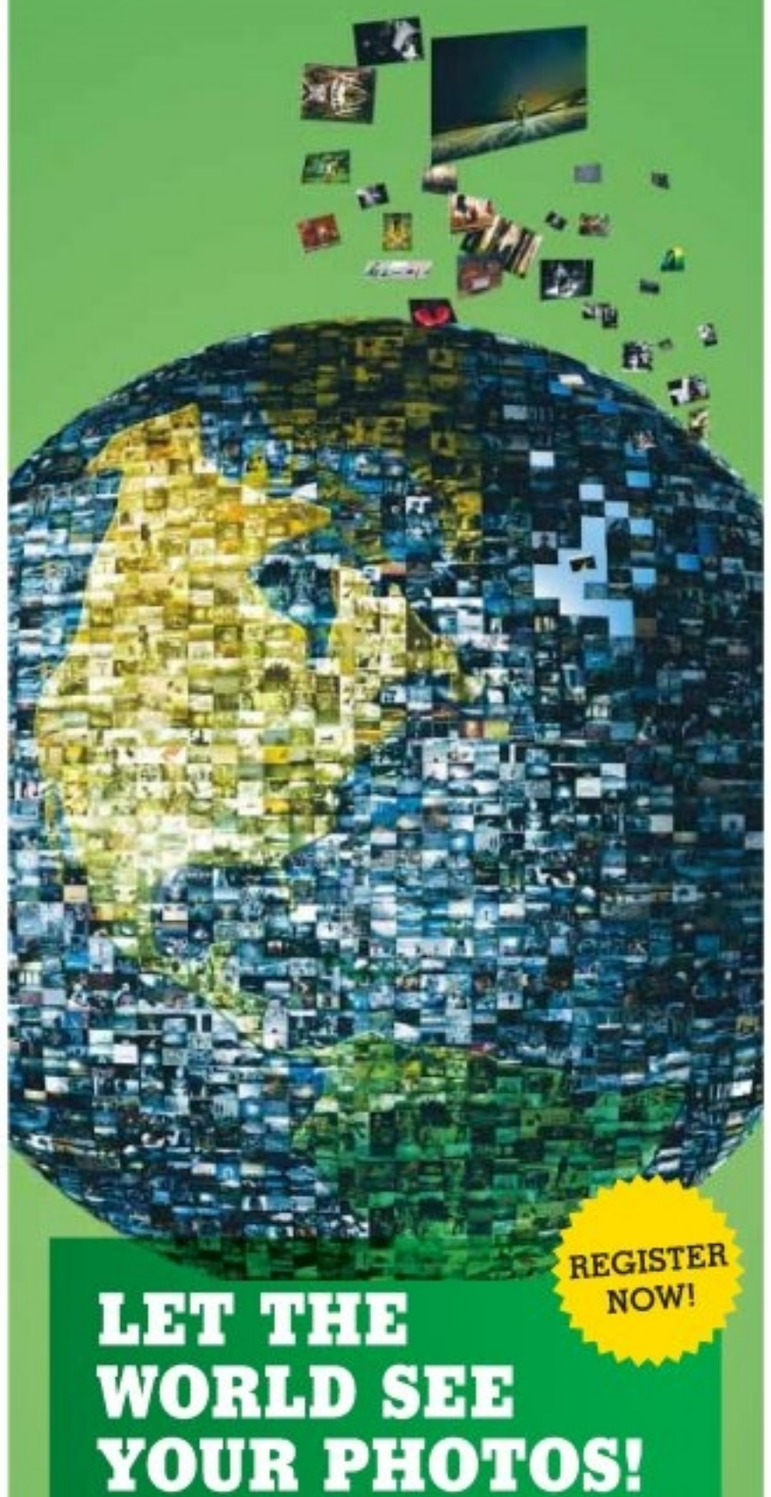

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Women and holiday tasks

F1ONLINE

▶ Time to make the cookies: 94 percent of women polled are baking, cooking or cleaning for the holidays.

A new study from Sleepy's says that over the holidays, women are more stressed out than men.

▶ **55 percent** of women expect to spend between one and four hours a night performing holiday-related tasks in December.
▶ **56 percent** said they take time "late at night, after midnight" or "early in the morning before anyone else wakes" to complete a variety of seasonal chores (compared to 34 percent of men).

Chores they're doing:
▶ **Making or wrapping gifts** (46 percent of women; 18 percent of men)
▶ **Baking, cooking or cleaning** (94 percent of women; 17 percent of men baking and cooking, 34 percent cleaning)
▶ **Online shopping** (37 percent of women; 43 percent of men)
▶ **Writing cards** (22 percent of women; 14 percent of men)

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Are You Shy

- ❑ Do you get anxious in front of others?
- ❑ Do you feel embarrassed if you have to give a speech or perform at a public function?
- ❑ Do you avoid meeting new people, going to parties, or dating?
- ❑ Is it difficult for you to eat, drink, or write while others may be watching you?

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mywellbeing

Tackling your holiday stress

It's the most wonderful time of the year — but not for everyone If you're overwhelmed, you're not alone Celebrate the season your way

BRAND X PICTURES

All wrapped up in holiday stress? Lessen the pressure by declining some invitations and giving low-cost gifts, like a homemade meal.

You can start to feel better by knowing you are not alone. Test it out — go and poll 10 people about the holiday season. My guess is that at least five would express that it's all too much. Accept the notion that we live in a society that is driven by the dollar — and during the holiday season, this is all magnified by big-box retailers and the like. This materialism is not an expression of what the holidays truly represent, nor do extravagance and expensive gifts equal happiness. You have a choice: Participate in it or don't.

In light of your recent money woes, be creative and spare the craziness of the shopping malls. Cook a dinner for a friend, promise to do some yard work or housework for your parents, babysit a sibling's kid or simply spend time with a long-lost friend. The most memorable gift you can give someone is an experience, not a material item. People remember activities and experiences long after the fleeting excitement of a toy, article of clothing or other material gift.

As for the holiday parties, know that you actually have some control over what you participate in. Ask yourself: Do I have to attend every party? Are you saying yes because you feel pressured to do so? Don't feel compelled to accept every invitation. Get comfortable saying "no" to what you don't want and "yes" to the things you truly believe in. I guarantee you'll feel less resentful and much calmer during the holidays.

Finally, examine your negativity. Is it really all nonsense, or is there something positive you can glean from the season? By making small changes to how you think, you'll be able to make big changes in how you feel.

*– **Jonathan Alpert** is a licensed psychotherapist. Find him on Facebook and Twitter, and look for his new book, "BE FEARLESS: Change Your Life in 28 Days," this April.*

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

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The question

I'm finding myself really stressed out this holiday season. Due to work issues, I hardly have any money this year to buy gifts and attend parties. I feel embarrassed about it. I just want to close my eyes and wake up on Jan. 2. What can I do to feel better?

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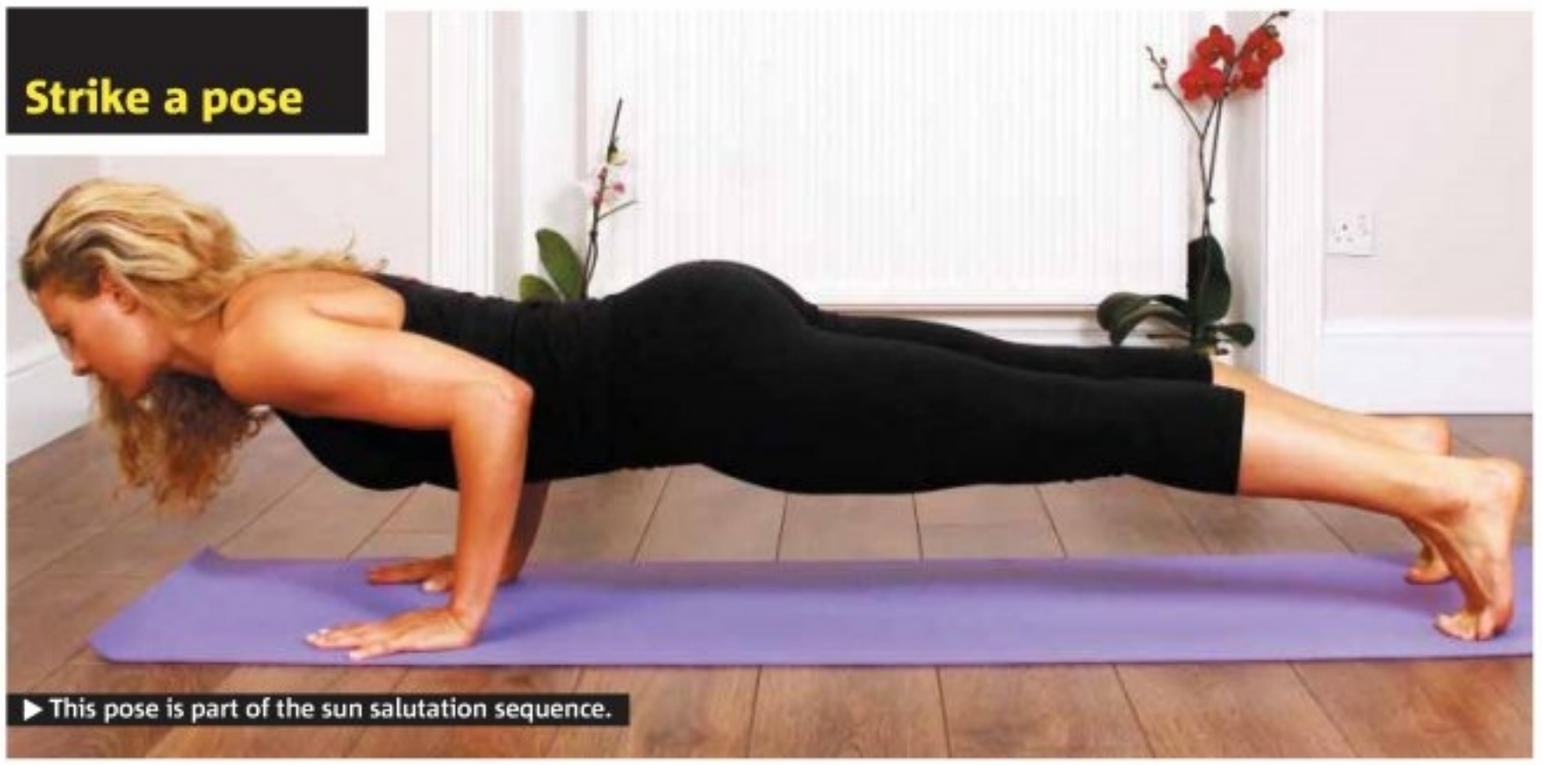
Strike a pose



▶ This pose is part of the sun salutation sequence.

Four-limb staff pose, aka the Chaturanga Dandasana

About the pose

- ▶ Strengthens your arms, wrists and abdomen
- ▶ For an increased challenge, roll onto the tops of your feet and shift your torso slightly forward.

What to do:

1 Get into a plank (push-up) position, then firm your shoulder blades against your back ribs and press your tailbone towards your pelvis.

2 On an exhale, lower your torso and legs to a few inches above and parallel to the floor. Keep the tailbone firmly in place and the legs active and turned inward. Draw the pelvis towards the navel.

3 Keep the space between the shoulder blades broad and don't let the elbows splay out to the sides. Hold them in by the sides of the torso and push them back toward the heels.

4 Press the bases of the index fingers firmly to the floor. Lift the top of the breastbone and your head to look forward.

5 Hold for 10 to 30 seconds. Release with an exhalation.

— Stephanie Knutsson, Bodyism Yoga instructor

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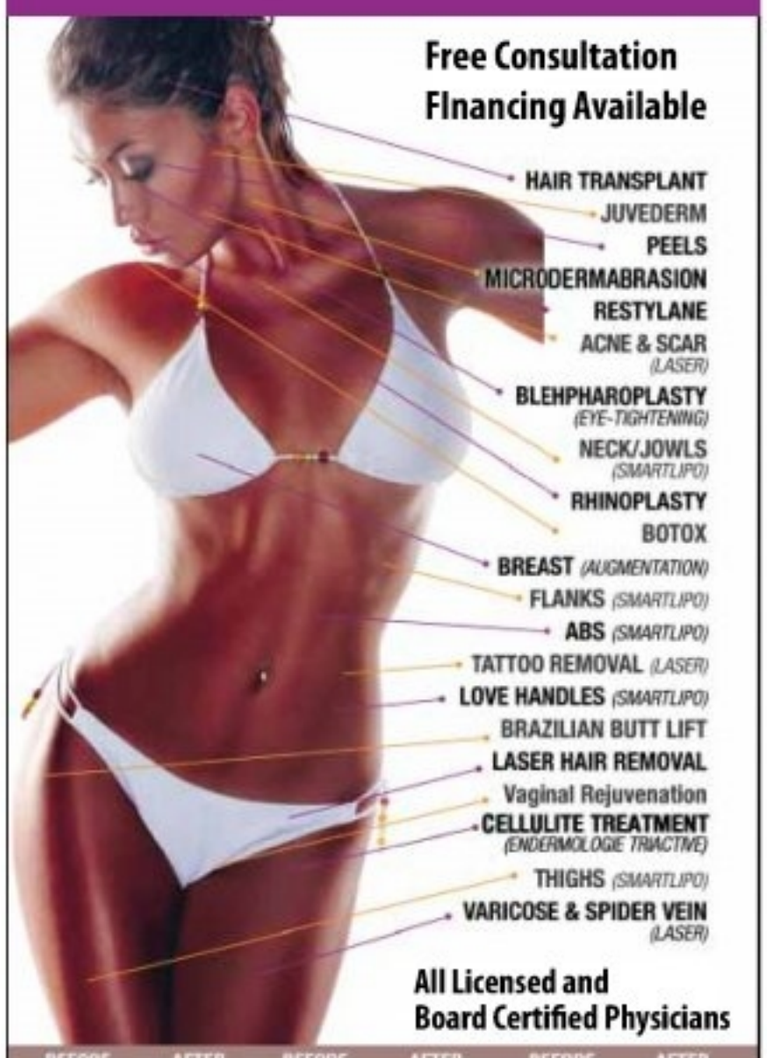

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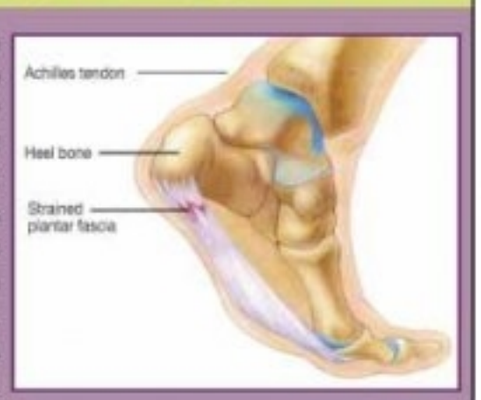

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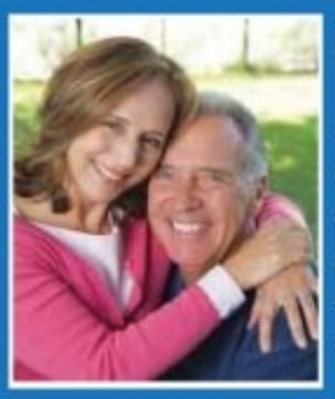

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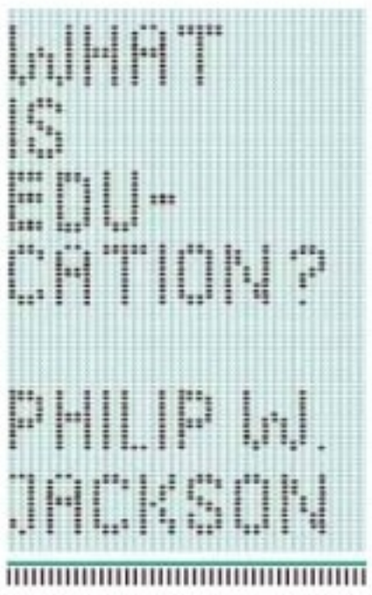
myeducation

A complex answer to a simple question

‘What Is Education?’ takes a philosophical look at the classroom and the purpose of educating students How American education stacks up



At 83, Philip W. Jackson has authored dozens of books on education philosophy, including the 1968 classic “Life in Classrooms,” still used by education majors around the globe. “What Is Education?” marks his return to the basic questions he pondered half a century ago, beginning with his initial fascination with seminal American education theorist, John Dewey.

How has your philosophy of education evolved since you first encountered Dewey?
I read Dewey’s 1938 [‘What Is Education’] speech when I was training to become a teacher. It puzzled me because he was addressing professional educators, and he implored them to consider that basic question. I started to look at Dewey’s early training as a philosopher. He was a Hegelian. So I tried to take Hegel seriously, and I eventually became more of a Hegelian than Dewey.

We hear a lot about the United States falling behind other countries in education.
The comparisons that are made — which place us unfavorably, according to some, on the international yardstick — do so only in subjects that are very easily measurable. It’s in those subjects that the other nations are beating us, as it were. But we’ve been worried about that recurrently. I feel that’s unfortunate. It’s shortsighted. Are we really helping our students become more thoughtful, better civic citizens? Are we helping them to become wiser, rather than just full of information? Those are more interesting questions.

BRUCE WALSH
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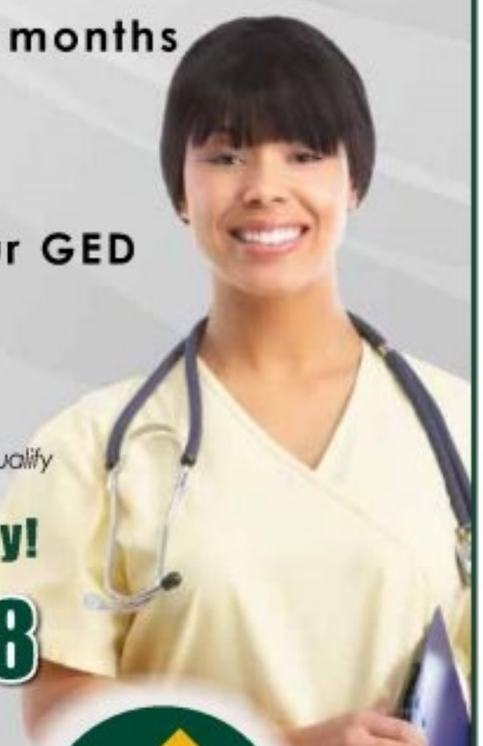

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News in brief

Half of workers will shop online at work

Fifty percent of U.S. workers will do holiday shopping while on the clock, according to a survey by CareerBuilder. And it's not just for quick purchases: 34 percent plan to spend an hour or more, while 16 percent admit that two or more hours was likely.

It's not strictly a holiday thing. Two-thirds report spending time conducting non-work Web searches. But it's not without repercussions. Twenty-two percent of employers have fired someone over non-work Internet usage, and seven percent of HR managers report firing an employee over holiday shopping.

METRO

PHOTODISC

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▶ The magic of a Macy's Santa: Edmund Gwenn starred as the aptly named Kris Kringle in "Miracle on 34th Street."

Employee of the Month: That would be ol' Santa Claus

We caught up with a Macy's Santa to talk job perks, the economy and elf bonuses
What the most popular toy this year is Remember, he tells us: 'Santa Claus loves you'

What's so great about your job, Santa Claus?
It all comes down to bringing joy to children of all ages at this special time of year. And free milk and cookies don't hurt either.

How are you managing in this economy?
The North Pole's economy is in a very different place than the rest of the world's. We've suffered before, but this recession will not sink the North Pole.

Are workaholics on the nice or naughty list?
It's a case-by-case basis. As long as you're happy with what you're doing, that's what really matters.

What's the most asked-for present this year?
Kids are still asking for dolls, and there's been a resurgence of older toys. They also want iPads, both children and adults. Of course, many adults want better jobs as well as health and happiness.

Anything else you'd like to add?
Just that I wish everyone a Merry Christmas. And remember, Santa Claus loves you.

JULIA WEST
letters@metro.us

Cookie raise

Is there an end-of-year bonus for the elves?
Of course. The elves get the same bonus they get every year: an extra batch of cookies and milk.

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Could chewing gum boost grades?

- Here's a quick, easy method to improve exam scores
- But just be sure to spit it out before taking the test

Break out the gum — it's finals time! If you find yourself in a pinch before an exam, chew on this: A study suggests that popping a stick of your favorite sticky stuff five minutes before taking a test could actually help improve your score.

About 80 undergrad students participated in the study. St. Lawrence University Assistant Professor of Psychology Serge Onyper, the lead researcher, found that gum-chewers did better on their tests than non-gum-chewers. Those who chewed experienced "mastication-induced arousal," leading to a boost in performance, but it only lasted for about the first 20 minutes of test-taking.

▶ Chew on this: Gum chewing might improve your grades.

COMSTOCK

Prior research has shown that physical activity can boost the performance of students in the classroom, but this study shows that even mild activity, like gum chewing, can have a positive effect on the brain.

Just make sure you spit out the gum before you sit down for the test. The study also found that chewing gum could actually detract away from performance due to "a sharing of resources by cognitive and masticatory processes."

CASSANDRA GARRISON
cassandra.garrison@metro.us

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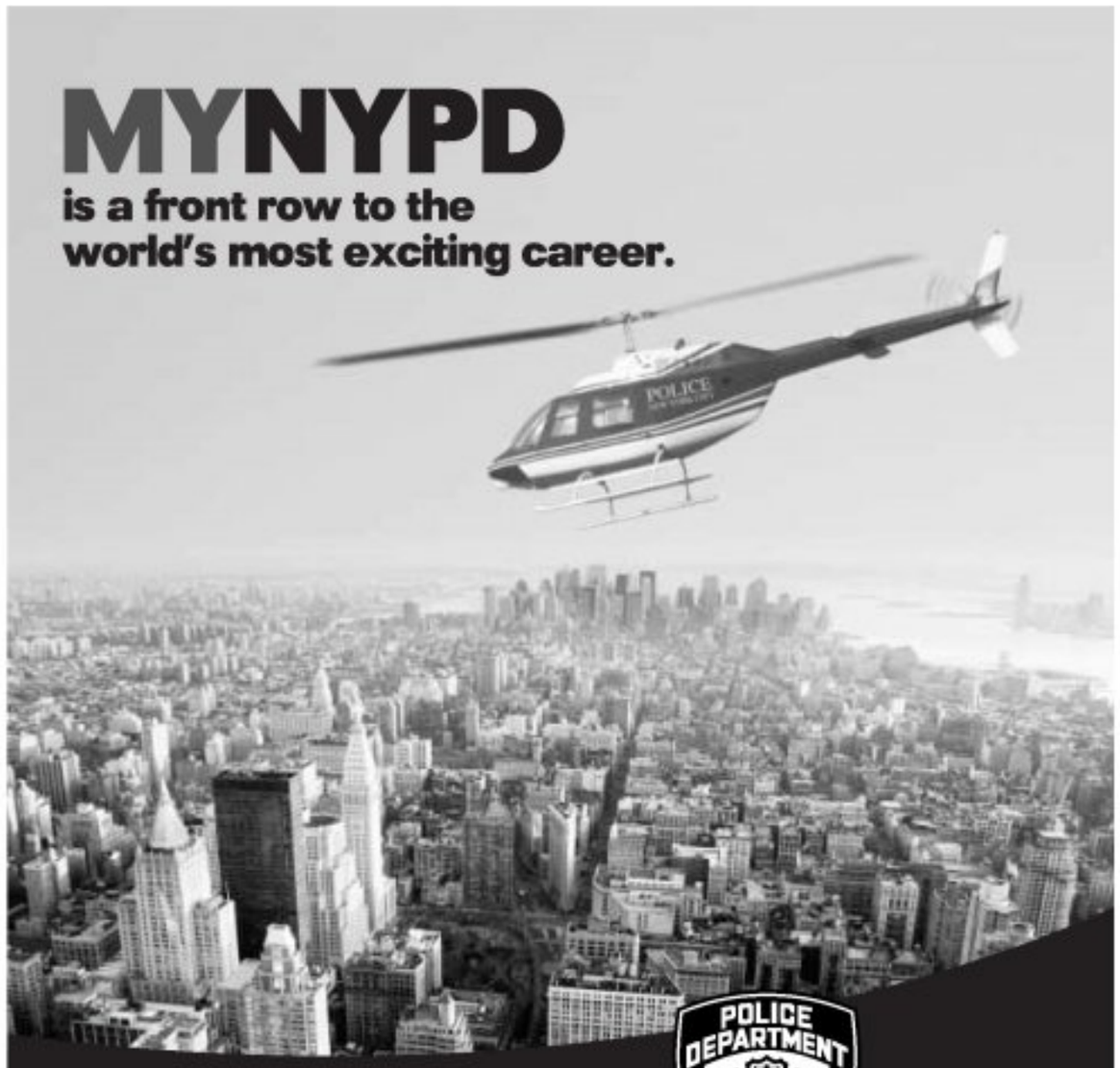

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Letters

letters@metro.us

Why obscure dirty truths?

RE: "NO DISCOURSE IN DRUG WAR?": Common sense requires that at this time of economic hardship, people should keep their strong beliefs away and do their job or else hang on to their beliefs if they interfere with work. Obviously policemen are human beings, not robots who cannot take the barometric readings of their environment. When the Mexican president came here and made it clear that his country's drug problem would be greatly curtailed if American demand were cut down, that was a powerful message for everybody — our president, Congress and all of us, including law enforcement agencies. Playing ostrich with such an issue is most certainly not what the policemen need to do at this time.
JOHN DINGA, VIA E-MAIL

Elementary schools, colleges and police academies are routinely teaching lies about what we are all mandated to call "marihuana" since Aug. 8, 1937. This upcoming year will herald the 75th anniversary of marihuana prohibition — and we'll have surpassed 23 million arrests for same, merely in America, where it all started.
MATTHEW STOVER, VIA E-MAIL

OWS may be on to something

I can to some extent have sympathy toward youths wasting their time to make their point. To make things better, we probably have to get rid of all our representatives and pick up better ones. Clean the house does not mean to destroy it — we need Wall Street and corporations, but they have to be more transparent.
ELENA BRIO, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Wake up and pay attention

I find it totally astounding that poor and middle class people continue to vote against their own economic self-interest. They have been bamboozled into voting for policies that benefit the elite.
CAROLYN CASEY, VIA E-MAIL

Obama is a wolf in wolf clothes

Obama's pledge to hold Wall Street accountable is hilarious. All he has to do is investigate and prosecute. He handed them the first bailout that G.W. Bush designed, appointed Geithner, Bernanke and Paulson. He's a neo-con in blue. Expecting help from Obama is self-delusion. **CHARLES MICHAEL COUCH, BED-STUY**

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Take nothing for granted and probe deeply when assessing any business dealings. Things could be far more complicated than they appear.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Don't allow yourself to be unduly influenced by the advice and opinions of some flamboyant friends, especially if it causes you to ignore your own instinctual judgment.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Fatigue after a busy weekend could cause you to let your attention span and work habits slip somewhat. Remember, carelessness increases the chances of mishap.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Don't put yourself in a position where you have to gamble on the abilities and/or skills of another. If they can't live up to what's necessary, you'll go down with them.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** It behooves you to get jobs you dislike out of the way first, while you have the energy to handle your disdain for doing them. They'll be 10 times harder to do when you're bushed.
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** What you say and what you mean are likely to be two totally different things, especially if you're playing games.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** It isn't likely to be a particular expenditure that throws your budget out of kilter; it's apt to be all the little, thoughtless purchases that cause a ruckus. Try to be more careful.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Unless you're just openly playing around with friends, sincerity is always essential when dealing with others. Shrewd ploys will be unmasked and could tarnish your reputation.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Forgo all small talk about things you know should be kept quiet, even when you think no one important is listening. There is always somebody who will squeal and make you look bad.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** It's foolish to hang out with anyone who historically expects more from you than they're prepared to give back. Someone may take you for all you've got.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Feeling both ambitious and restless at the same time could be cause for concern, because that combination tends to make you spread your forces too thin. You could end up with nothing.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Get your facts straight and don't jump to conclusions based on juicy but faulty information. Assess developments in a logical, realistic manner.
BERNICE BEDE OSOL

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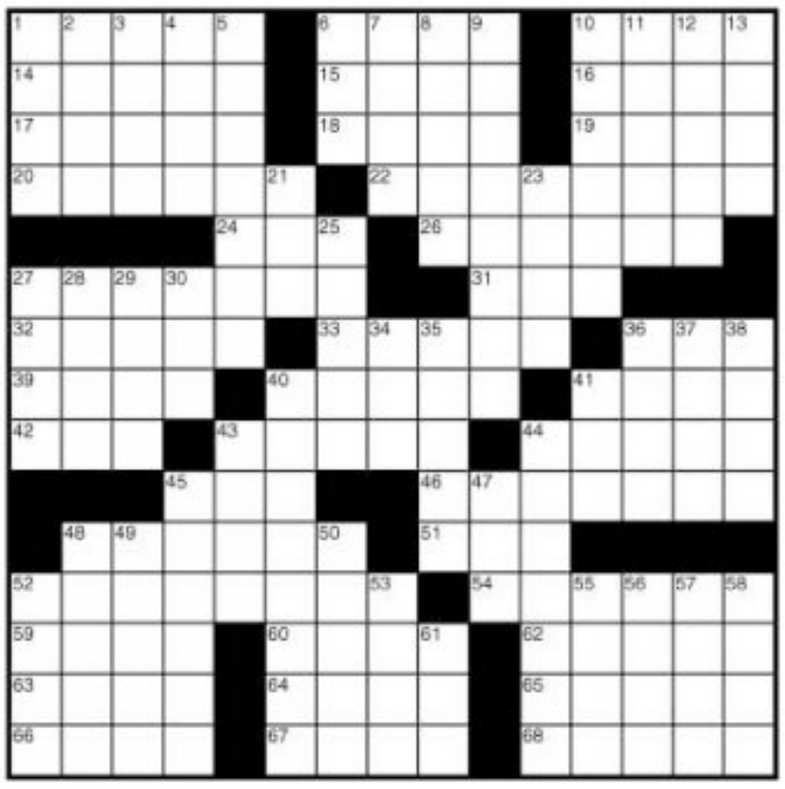

Across
1 Belfry or minaret
6 Pulpit
10 Jazzy refrain
14 Gray rock
15 Griffin of game shows
16 Big continent
17 Bolshoi rival
18 Um-hmm (2 wds.)
19 Cotillion
20 14-line poem
22 Remember (2 wds.)
24 Intention
26 Oktoberfest city
27 Early astronomer
31 Make a lap
32 Dubai royalty
33 Future officer
36 Dernier __
39 "Rag Mop" brothers
40 Wk. day
41 Cattle mover
42 Fishing pole
43 Abrade
44 In one piece
45 Status __
46 Outer ear
48 Zodiac sign
51 Electrical unit, once
52 Pays (2 wds.)
54 Junk food
59 Educ. institution
60 Mimicked
62 Crack filler
63 Fourth dimension
64 Successor to Claudius
65 Slur together
66 Disfigure
67 Tap one's fingers
68 Glazed goody

Down
1 Clucks
2 Mishmash
3 Notify of peril
4 Famed prep school
5 Discloses
6 Yvette's date
7 Webbing
8 Freshwater fish
9 Wears out
10 __ food (salad)
11 Asimov or Stern
12 Snitch
13 "Columbo" portrayer
21 Dressy accessory
23 Grow together
25 Coffee variety
27 Duffel filler
28 GI supply
29 Emulated Pinocchio
30 1040 agcy.
34 __ Wiedersehen
35 Improbable wish
36 Gator kin
37 Dice toss
38 __ fixe
40 Large number
41 Upsilon follower
43 Salt or pickle
44 Treated unfairly
45 Arrow holder
47 Cousins of "um"
48 Old-fashioned remedy
49 Feminine side
50 Custodian
52 Deposits
53 Inca Empire, once
55 A Guthrie
56 Invent a word
57 Striped antelope
58 Dele's undoing
61 __ Perignon

6		2	5					
9	3	8						
7				3		8	4	
4	8		1	6				
		5				7		
				7	4		6	8
	7	3		2				9
						6	5	7
					9	4		2

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

			8			7		
	5							1
8	1	7	4		5			9
9		4			2	5		
7								8
		8	7			2		4
1			3		8	4	7	6
3							9	
		2			6			

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS: **WWW.METRO.US/PUZZLES**

Solution to weekend's crossword

R	E	A	L		P	I	A	F			J	E	T	
E	A	S	E		R	A	C	E	D		M	A	X	I
N	U	I	T		E	N	T	E	R		A	V	E	C
O	X	F	O	R	D		S	L	A	P	J	A	C	K
			N	E	A	L		S	I	R	E			
B	A	T		S	T	A	B		N	O	S	H	E	D
A	S	H		T	E	N	E	T		S	T	E	L	E
R	T	E	S		S	K	I	R	T		Y	E	L	L
O	R	I	O	N		A	G	A	I	N		D	E	F
N	O	R	R	I	S		E	M	M	A		S	S	T
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L	O	D	E	S	T	A	R		D	O	G	T	A	G
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O	N	U	S		O	R	B	I	T		N	O	M	S
N	A	G			E	S	P	Y			A	T	O	P

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GIANTS 37 | COWBOYS 34 | Up next: Redskins (4-9) | Dec. 24: at NY Jets

▶ Brandon Jacobs had 101 yards and two touchdowns, including the game-winning score with 46 seconds left.

RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Giants rally for miracle victory

- Down by 12 with under six minutes, team scores 15 points to take win
- Pierre-Paul blocks tying field goal
- New York takes lead in NFC East

Nothing like cutting it close.

With the Giants' season likely on the line, trailing by 12 points late in the fourth, Eli Manning drove the Giants for two touchdowns to win 37-34 and keep their playoff hopes alive.

But it might have taken every bit of the 6-foot-5 Jason Pierre-Paul's wingspan to preserve it.

After the Cowboys took a 34-22 lead with 5:41 left, Manning began his charge. New York marched down the field for an easy Jake Ballard touchdown to bring them within five points. After forcing a three-and-out, largely in part due to an overthrow by Tony Romo, Manning drove 58 yards down to the 1, where Brandon Jacobs scored the go-ahead touchdown. They went for two and converted as well.

It was then up to the defense to hold the Cowboys with 46 seconds left.

Dallas marched it to the 30-yard line with ease, but Pierre-Paul blocked the kick that would've tied it.

MARK OSBORNE
mark.osborne@metro.us

Playoff picture

The win means the Giants are tied with Dallas (7-6) atop the NFC East.

The Giants, however, hold the tiebreaker for now due to the head-to-head win. They don't leave MetLife Stadium in any of their final three games.

▶ Greene

Jets KO KC in easy win

Balance was the word of the day in the Jets' 37-10 win over the Chiefs yesterday.

It took 14 weeks, but fans finally saw the offense they were expecting to see all season. The running game, led by Shonn Greene's 129 yards on 24 carries and a touchdown, was the perfect complement to a passing game that has carried the team much of the year.

"It was great; the offense came out and played well today," Santonio Holmes said. "You couldn't ask for anything better on a Sunday." KRISTIAN DYER

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Knicks add vets Bibby, Jeffries

One day after the Knicks signed center Tyson Chandler to a four-year deal they inked two veterans and two rookies to help fill out their roster.

The signing of Chandler necessitated the release of veteran point guard Chauncey Billups, leaving a gaping hole at the position. In order to help fill the role they signed former Hawk Mike Bibby.

The 13-year veteran was signed to a one-year, $1.4 million deal and will likely back up Toney Douglas at least to start the season.

GETTY IMAGES

The Knicks re-signed forward Jared Jeffries to a one-year deal.

The team also came to terms with first-round pick guard Iman Sumpert from Georgia Tech and second-round pick center Josh Harrellson from Kentucky. METRO

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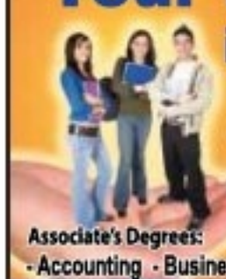
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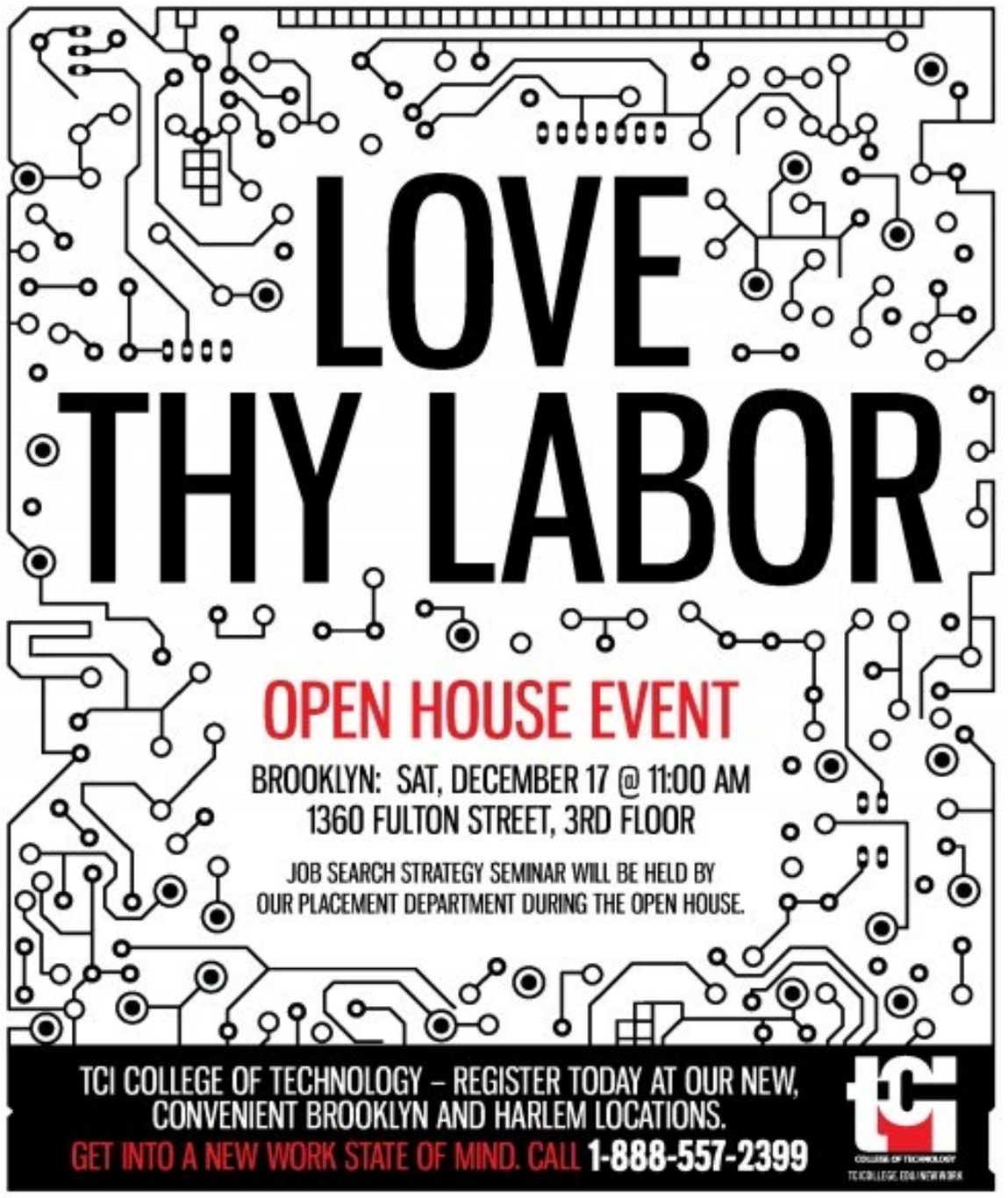

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This is the watch Stephen Hollingshead, Jr. was wearing when he encountered a drunk driver.
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Photo by Michael Mazzeo
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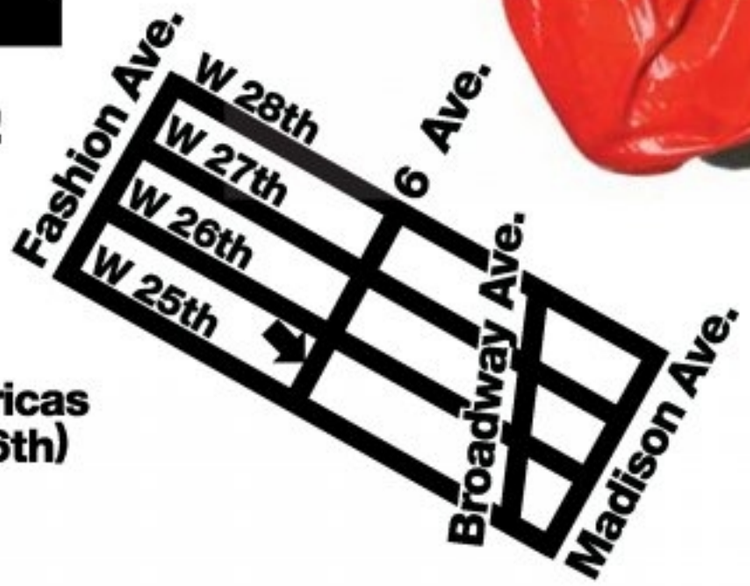

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NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Protect your Money

Know Before You Enroll

Before you take on debt or pay to enroll in a school or training program, do your homework first. Here are 10 important tips to help you protect your money.

1. **Free and low-cost adult education and training options are available.** Visit **nyc.gov** or **call 311** and ask about free and low-cost adult education and job training options. You can attend classes at the Department of Education, City University of New York (CUNY), public libraries, community-based organizations, Workforce1 Career Centers, and more.

2. **If a school or training program sounds too good to be true, it probably is.**

3. **Research, research, research.** Consider multiple schools before deciding which one is right for you. Ask for information on graduation and completion rates, student loan debt, and whether or not the credits you get will transfer to other schools. Sit in on a class, ask to speak to former students who have completed the program, and visit **nyc.gov** to read reviews from real students in the NYC Training Guide. Ask to see a list of employers that hire graduates, and call those businesses to ask their opinion of the school. You should also research the general field you're interested in to make sure it's the right fit and there's potential for job availability and growth.

4. **Avoid unlicensed schools.** Some schools are operating illegally. If you go to an unlicensed school, you can't take exams to become licensed in many fields such as nursing. Visit **nyc.gov** or call the New York State Education Department at (212) 643-4760 or (518) 474-3969 to check if a vocational or trade school is licensed. Remember, even if a school has a license, it might not be well run, so research the school before you sign up. **Call 311** or visit **nyc.gov** to file a complaint about an unlicensed school.

5. **Don't sign up the day you visit a school.** Before you sign up, you need to understand how much the program will cost and how you will pay for it. Do not make such an important decision on the spot! Take your time, and research the school. Visit **nyc.gov** for the NYC Training Guide to learn more about specific schools and programs.

6. **Never sign anything you don't understand.** If a school pressures you to sign a contract or agreement on the spot, walk away. You have the right to bring home important forms so you can read them more carefully and review them with people you trust.

7. **Ask for the school's tuition cancellation policy in writing.** The policy should describe how you can get a refund if you need to cancel or withdraw. However, once you have signed up, it can be tough to get your money back.

8. **Be careful of taking on a lot of debt.** Some schools charge tens of thousands of dollars. Often, the "financial aid" that is available isn't free money, but rather loans you have to pay back—with interest. School loans last a long time, and there's a limit on how much money you can borrow. Loans can also lower your credit score if you don't pay them back on time. Make sure you understand the terms and will be able to make the payments. Remember that free and low-cost education and training options are available. See tip #1!

9. **Avoid schools that "guarantee employment" after you graduate.** A school can't guarantee that you'll get a job when you graduate. Many times, the schools that make these types of promises don't actually place you in a job.

10. **You have the right to file a complaint.** Did you enroll in a school or training program but didn't get what you were promised? **Call 311** or visit **nyc.gov** to file a complaint.

Are you in debt from school?

Visit **nyc.gov** or **call 311** and ask for an NYC Financial Empowerment Center, where you can get free one-on-one professional financial counseling.

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